

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
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SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0080

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: FEB 23 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 161ST PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS,
WHICH WAS HELD ON FEBRUARY 23 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP
OF FRG REP (BEHREND), GDR REP (OESER) DELIVERED THE
ONLY STATMENT. HIS SHARPLY WORDED PRESENTATION
STRESSED THE NEED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS TO ACCEPT THE
EXISTENCE OF MILITARY EQUALITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND
TO ACT ON THAT BASIS. IT INCLUDED THE ASSERTION FOR
THE FIRST TIME IN A PLENARY STATEMENT THAT THERE
WAS APPROXIMATE EQUALITY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST
IN ARMAMENTS IN THE REDUCTION AREA, A STANDARD
REFUTATION OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC ARGUMENTS, THE CLAIM
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THAT AN EXCHANGE OF FURTHER MANPOWER DATA UNDER THE EAST'S
OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL WOULD PROVE THAT WESTERN FIGURES FOR
EASTERN FORCES WERE UNREALISTIC, AND A STRONG ATTACK
ON WESTERN FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS WITH EMPHASIS
ON THE NEUTRON WARHEAD. THE MAIN POINTS OF OESER'S
STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM,
WERE:

1) THE GDR FEELS THAT THE EXTENSION OF DETENTE INTO THE MILITARY AREA AND DISARMAMENT ON THE BASIS OF MUTUALITY ARE KEY ISSUES.

2) THE PROPOSALS OF THE EAST, WHICH ARE REALISTIC, CHARACTERIZED BY A READINESS TO COMPROMISE AND ADHERE FAITHFULLY TO THE AGREED BASIS OF THE TALKS, WOULD LEAD TO STABILITY AND STRENGTHENED PEACE AND SECURITY BECAUSE THEY WOULD PRESERVE THE EXISTING APPROXIMATE MILITARY EQUALITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

3) IF THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO SUCCEED, THEN ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE OF MILITARY EQUALITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND PROCEED ON THAT BASIS AS THE SOCIALIST PARTICIPANTS HAVE FROM THE OUTSET.

4) THE WESTERN STATES HAVE ASSERTED THE EXISTENCE OF DISPARITIES IN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA FAVORING THE EAST DESPITE THE FACT THAT EASTERN FIGURES PRESENTED IN JUNE 1976 DEMONSTRATED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE.

5) EITHER THE EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL FIGURES, WHICH THE WEST HAS REFUSED, OR THE EXCHANGE OF FIGURES BASED ON THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OF OCTOBER 25, 1977 WOULD PROVE CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FALSITY OF WESTERN CLAIMS CONCERNING DISPARITIES.

6) NOT ONLY IS THERE EQUALITY IN MANPOWER, BUT AN APPROXIMATE EQUALITY ALSO EXISTS IN THE FIELD OF ARMAMENTS, THUS JUSTIFYING EASTERN DEMANDS FOR MUTUAL ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS.

7) THE DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN PROPOSAL TO REDUCE CERTAIN US NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS CONSTITUTES AN ADMISSION OF THE WEST'S READINESS TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL ARMS REDUCTIONS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0080

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

8) THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE PREPARATORY TALKS
RESOLVED THE GEOGRAPHY ISSUE; THEREFORE, WESTERN ATTEMPTS
TO MAKE THE GEOGRAPHIC POSITION OF THE USSR A SUBJECT
FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE.

9) WESTERN USE OF GEOGRAPHIC ARGUMENTS IN SEEKING TO
JUSTIFY VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREED BASIS FOR THE
TALKS ONLY SUGGEST THAT WESTERN PARTICIPANTS, THEMSELVES,
CONSIDER THAT THEIR CONTENTIONS CONCERNING AN IMAGINARY
EASTERN MANPOWER SUPERIORITY ARE UNSUSTAINABLE.

10) SUCH ARGUMENTS IGNORE THE GREATER WESTERN MANPOWER
RESERVE POTENTIAL, MORE EXTENSIVE MILITARY INDUSTRY,
AND WELL-DEVELOPED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE REDUCTION AREA,
WHICH ARE ALL CLOSELY RELATED TO REINFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES.
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11) MOREOVER, THE EASTERN PART OF THE REDUCTIONS AREA
IS ALMOST TWICE AS LARGE AS THE WESTERN PART.

12) WESTERN DEMANDS FOR MUCH LARGER REDUCTIONS BY
EASTERN PARTICIPANTS ARE UNREALISTIC SINCE THEY WOULD
ALTER THE EXISTING MILITARY EQUALITY TO NATO'S ADVANTAGE.

13) WESTERN CLAIMS THAT THE EASTERN PROPOSALS FOR
EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS WOULD CONSOLIDATE EASTERN

SUPERIORITIES ARE FLIGHTS OF FANCY.

14) WESTERN CONTENTIONS REGARDING EASTERN SUPERIORITIES ARE AN ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY MASSIVE INCREASES IN NATO'S MILITARY POTENTIAL AND TO MASK THE USE BY WESTERN POLITICIANS OF THE THREAT OF NEUTRON BOMBS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE COLD WAR.

15) THE SPEEDING UP OF THE ARMS RACE, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, IS MEETING GROWING OPPOSITION FROM THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC.

16) EASTERN PARTICIPANTS CONDEMN REPORTS OF US TROOP INCREASES IN EUROPE ALL THE MORE SINCE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE SYSTEMATICALLY STRENGTHENED THEIR ARMED FORCES FROM THE BEGINNING OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

17) THESE DESTABILIZING MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY THE WEST ARE IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO THE GOALS OF THE TALKS AND INCREASE THE DANGER OF AN OUTBREAK OF ARMED CONFLICT.

18) BY CONTRAST, EASTERN PARTICIPANTS CONTINUE TO SEEK
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MUTUAL REDUCTIONS IN A MANNER WHICH DOES NOT YIELD MILITARY ADVANTAGES OR CHANGE THE MILITARY EQUALITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

19) IT IS UP TO WESTERN PARTICIPANTS ALSO TO SHOW REALISM AND A WILLINGNESS TO REACH A CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. RESOR

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